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POLISH CENSORSHIP

ANNCR

A FORMER POLISH CENSOR SAYS THAT CENSORSHIP IS STILL ALL PERVASIVE IN HIS COUNTRY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE VOICE OF AMERICA, HE SAYS THAT A NETWORK OF GOVERNMENT CENSORS CHECK ALL INFORMATION OF THE POLISH MASS MEDIA. VOA'S MARK HOPKINS HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

POLAND IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MORE LIBERAL COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS FAR AS THE PRESS GOES -- A RESULT OF PARTY LEADER EDWARD GIEREK'S GRADUAL POLICIES.

BUT FORMER POLISH CENSOR TOMASZ STRZYZZEWSKI WORKED IN CRACOW FOR TWO YEARS AS A GOVERNMENT CENSOR. LEAVING POLAND LAST YEAR, HE BROUGHT WITH HIM SOME OF THE SECRET DIRECTIVES ISSUED TO THE NEARLY FIVE-HUNDRED STRONG NETWORK OF POLISH CENSORS.

EVERYTHING IN THE POLISH MASS MEDIA -- NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, TELEVISION, RADIO -- IS SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP, HE SAYS. SOME INFORMATION IS MORE SENSITIVE THAN OTHER -- ONE SPECIAL CATEGORY, IS ANYTHING THAT DEALS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND WHAT HE SAYS IS THE LACK OF POLISH INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

THE CENSORSHIP NETWORK IS RUN BY THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SECTION FOR PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. IT ISSUES THE DIRECTIVES TO CENSORS -- SOME OF WHICH MISTER STRZYZEWSKI HAS NOW PUBLISHED IN LONDON IN A VOLUME TITLED "THE BLACK BOOK OF POLISH CENSORSHIP."

WHAT CANNOT BE MENTIONED IN THE POLISH MASS MEDIA? A GOOD DEAL, ACCORDING TO THESE DIRECTIVES. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

ALL CRITICISM OF INCOME AND SOCIAL POLICIES IN POLAND.

ALL GENERAL STATISTICS ON WORKER ACCIDENTS IN POLISH FACTORIES.

THERE SHOULD BE NO MENTION ABOUT AN AMERICAN COMPUTOR INSTALLED IN THE SWIERK NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

GENERAL FIGURES ON THE RISE OF ALCOHOLISM ARE BANNED FROM THE MEDIA.

SO IS INFORMATION -- THE CENSORSHIP DOCUMENTS SAY -- ABOUT POLISH TRADE RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

ALSO, THERE SHOULD BE NO REPORTING OF TECHNICAL LICENSES BOUGHT BY POLAND IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES.

THE DETAILED LIST GOES ON AND ON...TELLING THE CENSORS WHAT TO ELIMINATE, IF POLISH WRITERS AND EDITORS HAPPEN TO ALLOW THE INFORMATION TO SLIP INTO A REPORT.

THERE HAS BEEN AN ATTEMPT, MISTER STRZYZEWSKI SAYS, TO SHIFT THE JOB OF CENSORSHIP TO MEDIA EDITORIAL BOARDS THEMSELVES. AND TWO YEARS AGO, A NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED CENSORS WERE ASSIGNED TO EDITORIAL DEPARTMENTS AS JOURNALISTS -- JOURNALISTS, MISTER STRZYZEWSKI SAYS -- WITH A FINE SENSE OF WHAT SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT BE SAID IN POLAND.

WJL/RCS